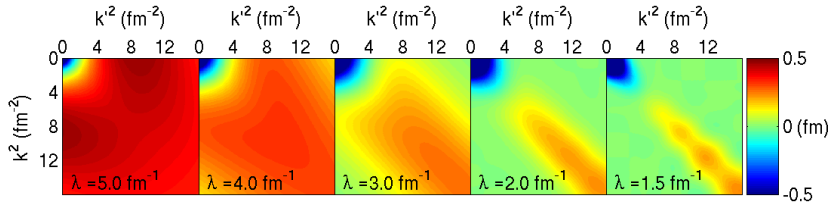


Atomic Nuclei at Low Resolution

Dick Furnstahl

Department of Physics
Ohio State University

July, 2013



Outline

Overview

Lowering the resolution: Similarity RG in practice

SRG Basics

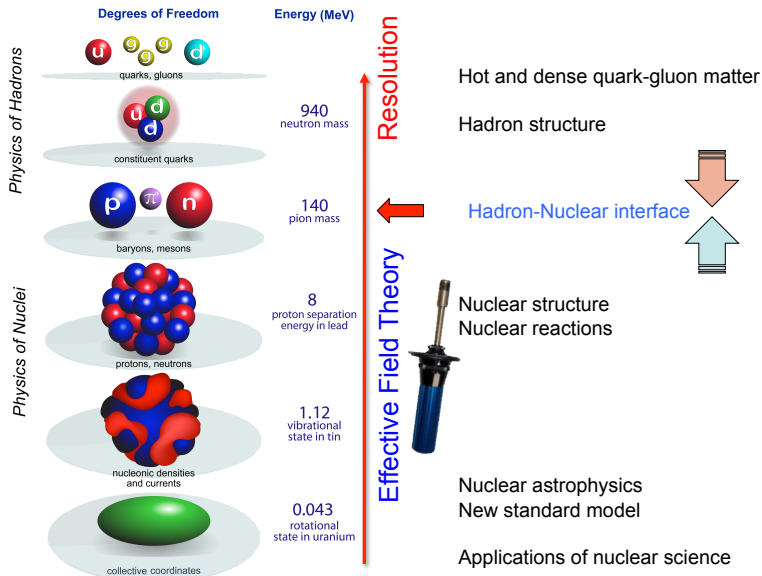
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Connecting degrees of freedom with EFT and RG

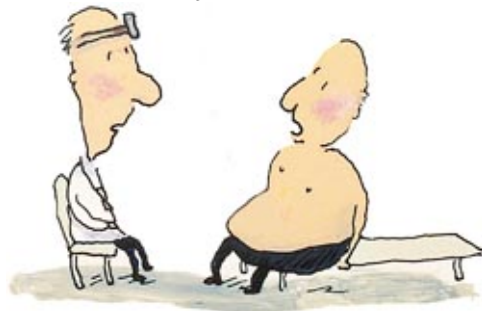


Low resolution makes physics easier + efficient

- Weinberg's Third Law of Progress in Theoretical Physics:
"You may use any degrees of freedom you like to describe a physical system, but if you use the wrong ones, you'll be sorry!"

Low resolution makes physics easier + efficient

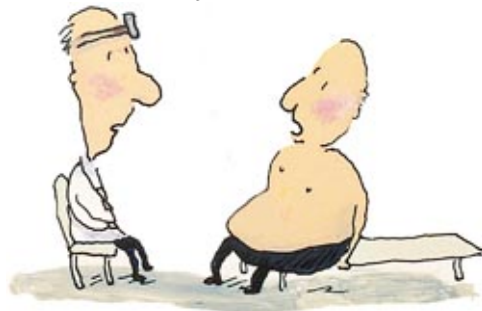
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"You may use any degrees of freedom you like to describe a physical system, but if you use the wrong ones, you'll be sorry!"
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Patient: Doctor, doctor, it hurts when I do this!

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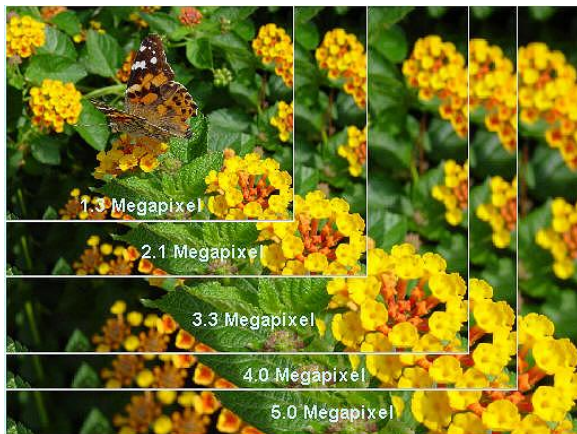


Patient: Doctor, doctor, it hurts when I do this!

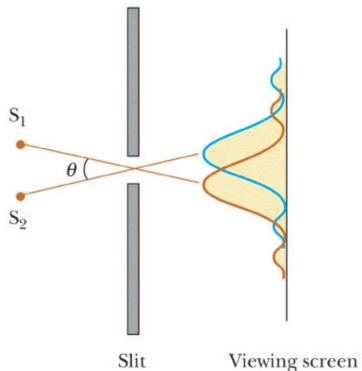
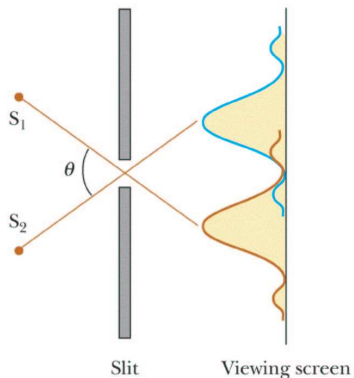
Doctor: Then don't do that.

Digital resolution: Higher resolution is better (?)

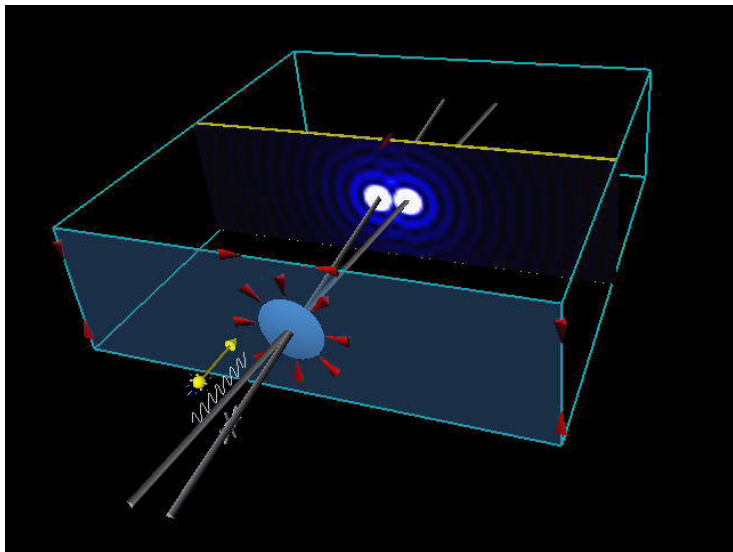
- Computer screens, printers, digital cameras, TV's ...
- Higher resolution \implies more pixels
- Pixel size \ll characteristic scale \implies greater detail



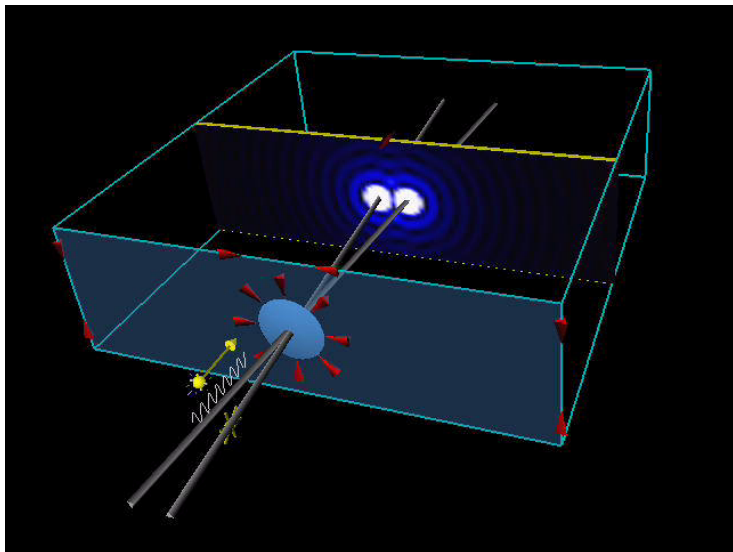
Diffraction and resolution



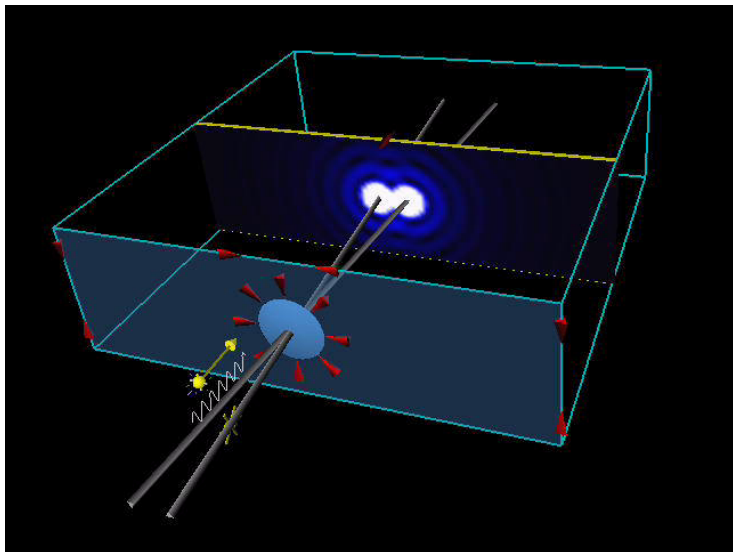
Wavelength and resolution



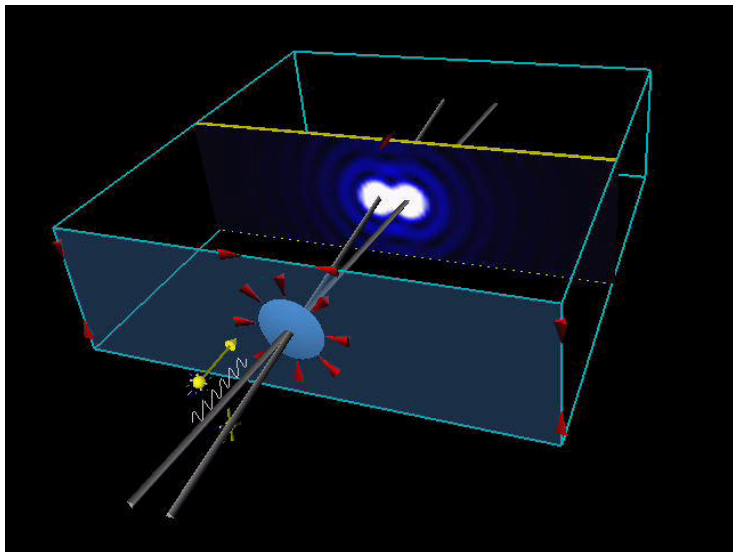
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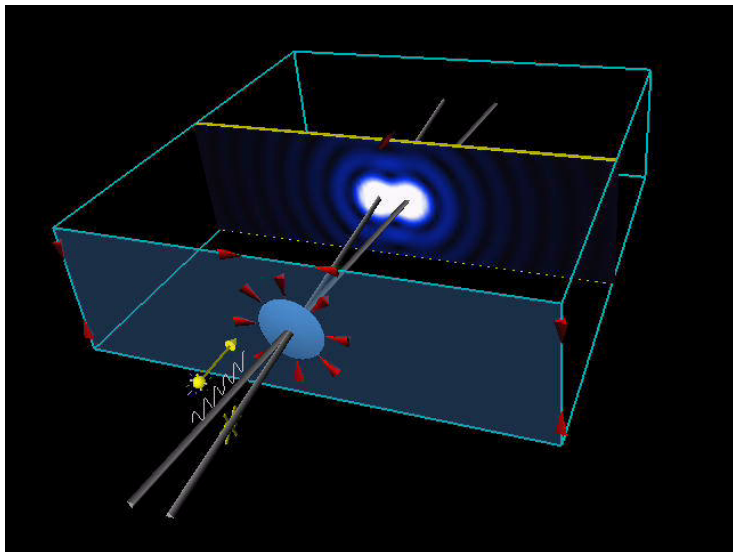
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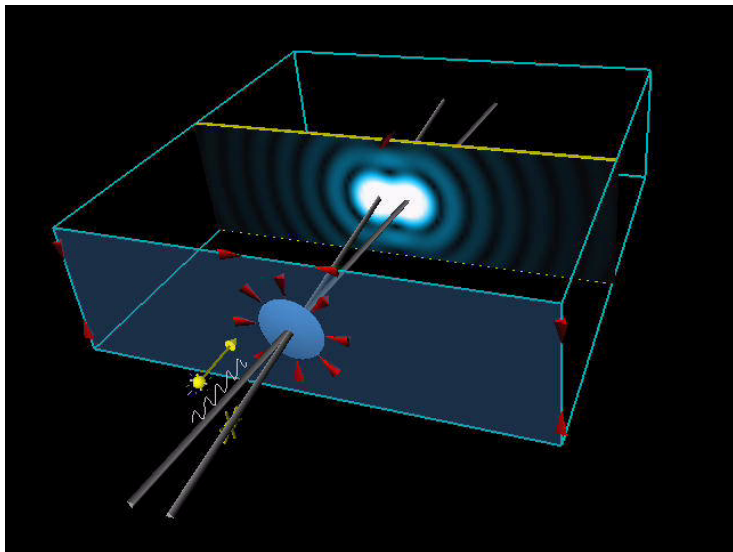
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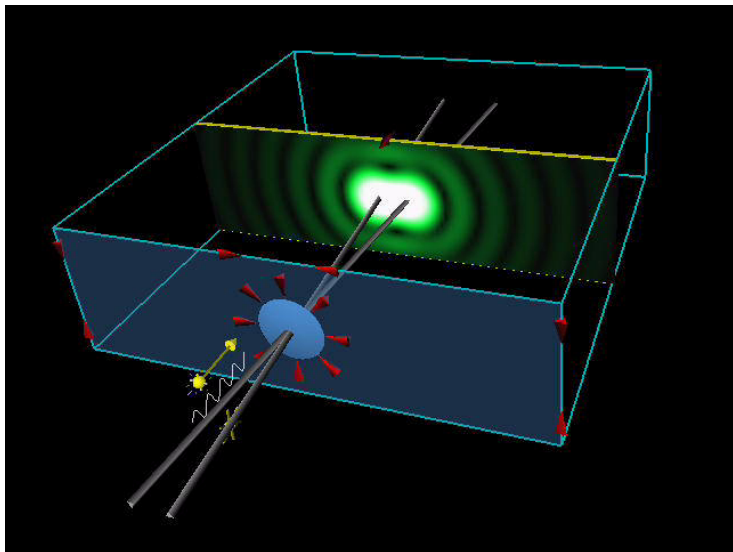
Wavelength and resolution



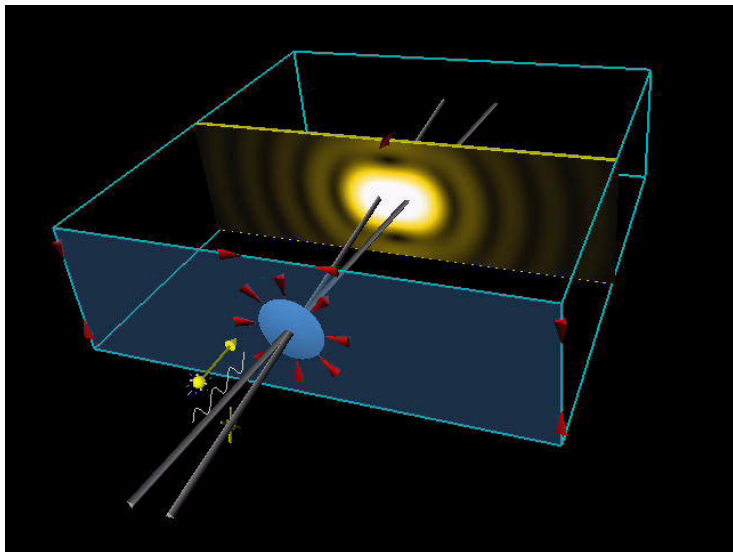
Wavelength and resolution



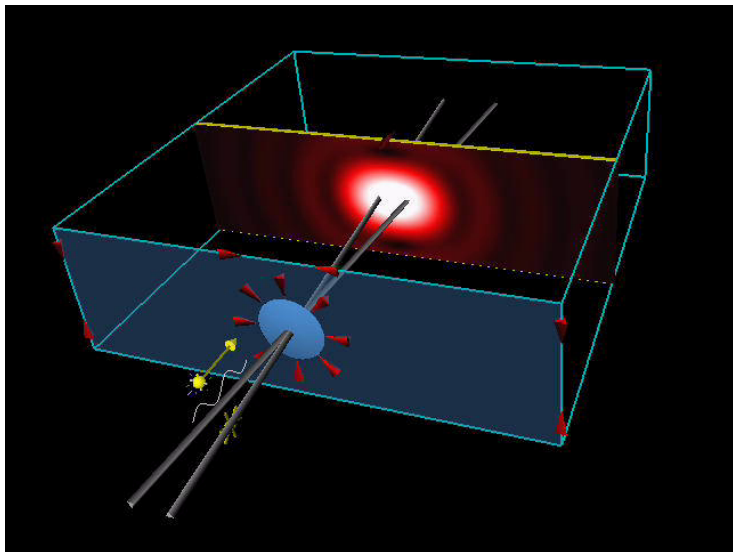
Wavelength and resolution



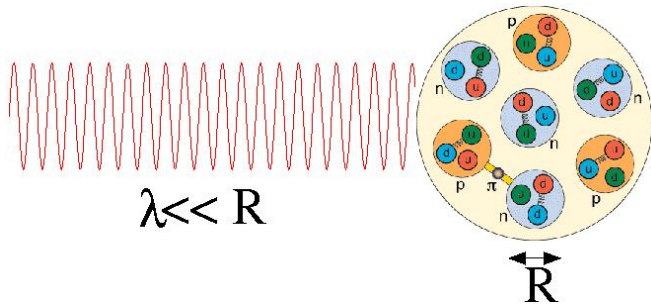
Wavelength and resolution



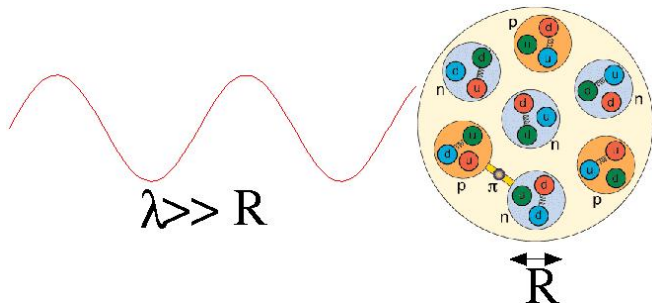
Wavelength and resolution



Principle of *any* effective low-energy description

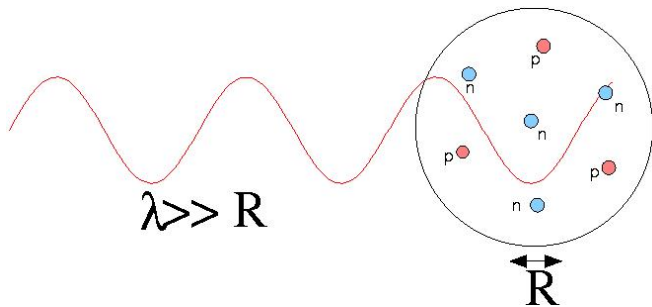


Principle of *any* effective low-energy description



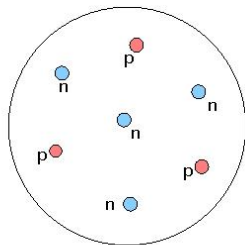
- If system is probed at low energies, fine details not resolved

Principle of *any* effective low-energy description



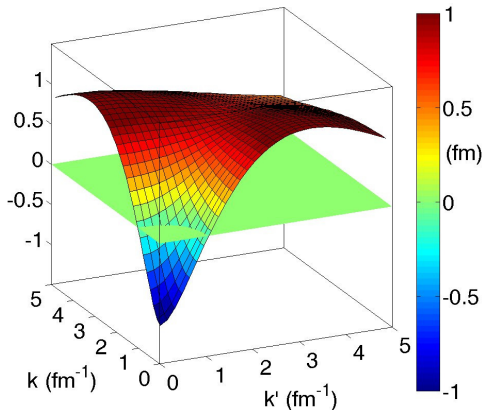
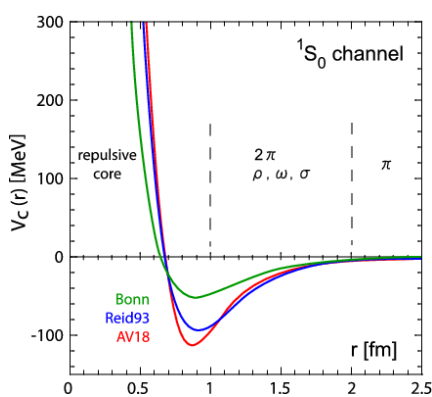
- If system is probed at low energies, fine details not resolved
 - Use low-energy variables for low-energy processes
 - Short-distance structure can be **replaced** by something simpler without distorting low-energy **observables**
 - Could be a model or systematic (e.g., **effective field theory**)
- *Physics interpretation often changes with resolution!*

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- *Physics interpretation often changes with resolution!*
- Low density \Leftrightarrow low interaction energy \Leftrightarrow low resolution (?)

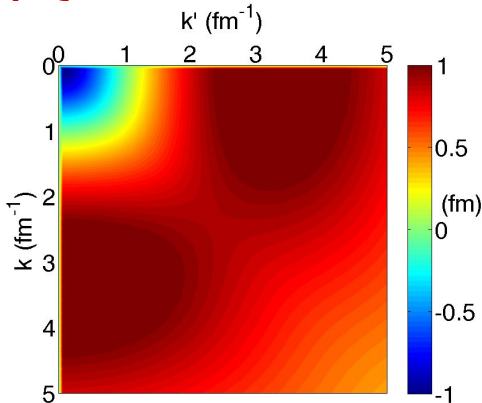
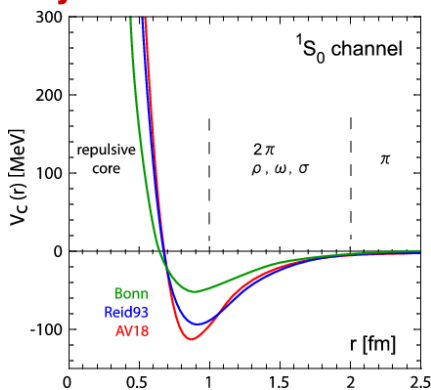
Why is textbook nuclear physics so hard?



$$V_{L=0}(k, k') = \int d^3r j_0(kr) V(r) j_0(k'r) = \langle k | V_{L=0} | k' \rangle \Rightarrow V_{kk'} \text{ matrix}$$

- Momentum units ($\hbar = c = 1$): typical relative momentum in large nucleus $\approx 1 \text{ fm}^{-1} \approx 200 \text{ MeV}$ but ...
- Repulsive core \Rightarrow large high- k ($\geq 2 \text{ fm}^{-1}$) components

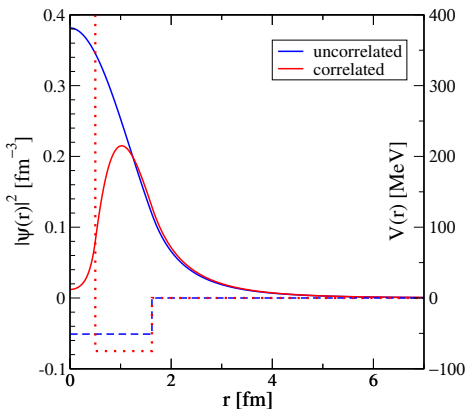
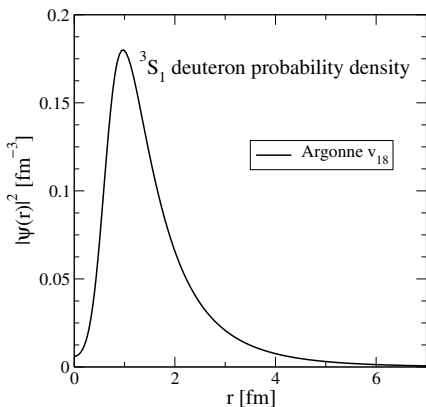
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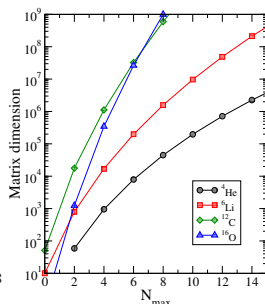
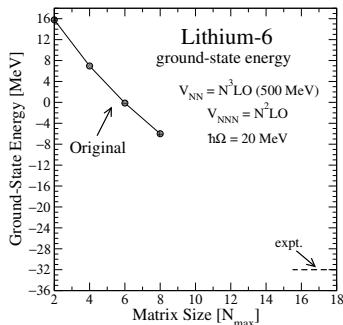
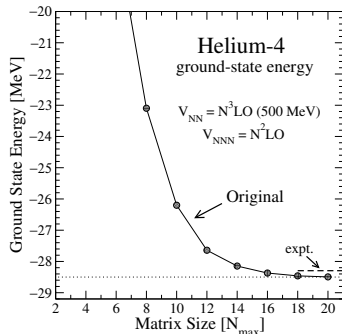
Consequences of a repulsive core



- Probability at short separations suppressed \implies “correlations”
- Short-distance structure \Leftrightarrow high-momentum components
- Greatly complicates expansion of many-body wave functions

Many short wavelengths \implies Large matrices

- Harmonic oscillator basis with N_{\max} shells for excitations
- Graphs show convergence for *soft* chiral EFT potential (although not at optimal $\hbar\Omega$ for ${}^6\text{Li}$)



- Factorial growth of basis with $A \implies$ limits calculations
- Too much resolution from potential \implies mismatch of scales

What if your theory has too much resolution?



What if your theory has too much resolution?



What if your theory has too much resolution?



What if your theory has too much resolution?

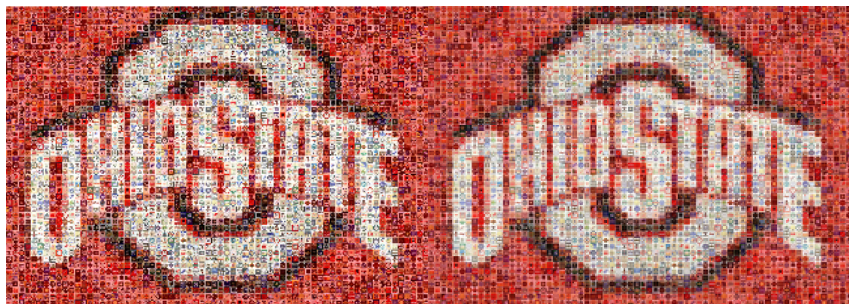


Claim: Nuclear physics with textbook $V(r)$ is like using beer coasters!

Less painful to use a low-resolution version!

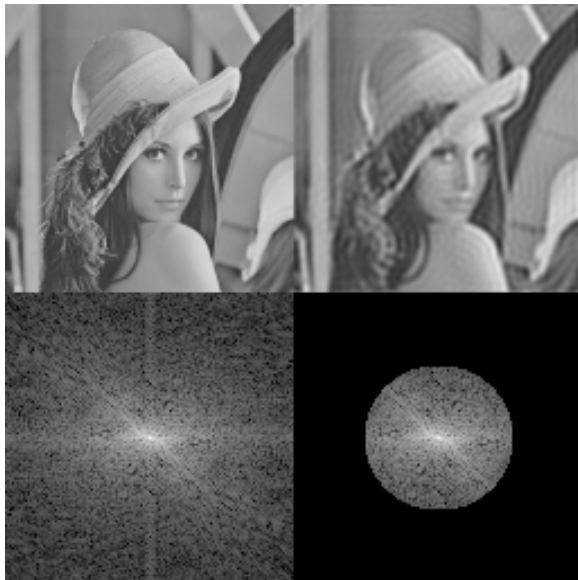
High resolution

Low resolution



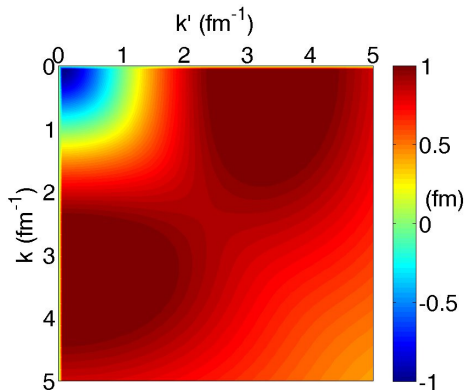
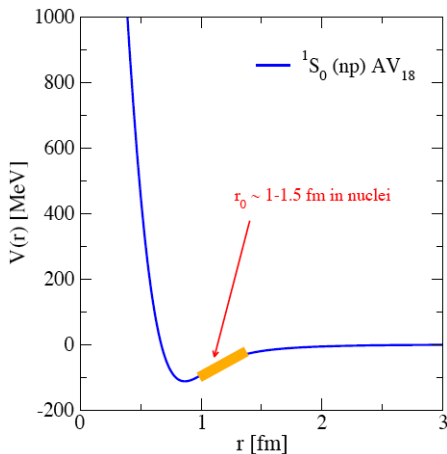
- Can greatly reduce storage without distorting message
- Resolution was lowered here by “block spinning”
- **Alternative: apply a low-pass filter**

Low-pass filter on an image



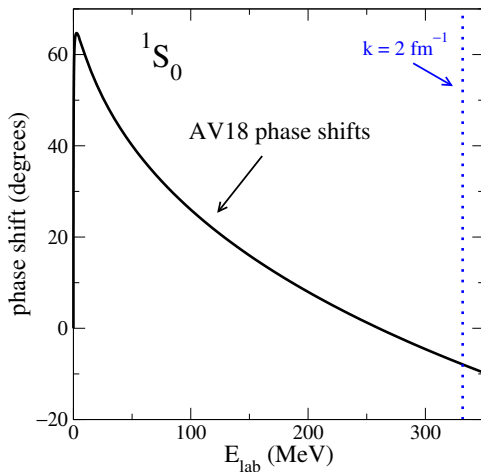
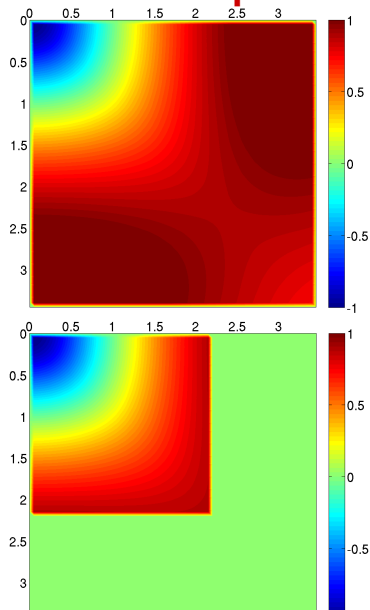
- Much less information needed
- Long-wavelength info is preserved

Try a low-pass filter on nuclear $V(r)$

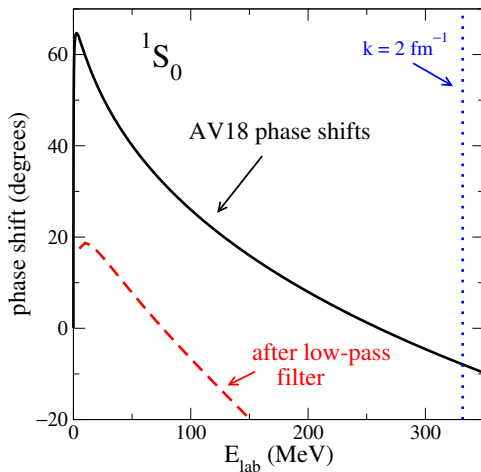
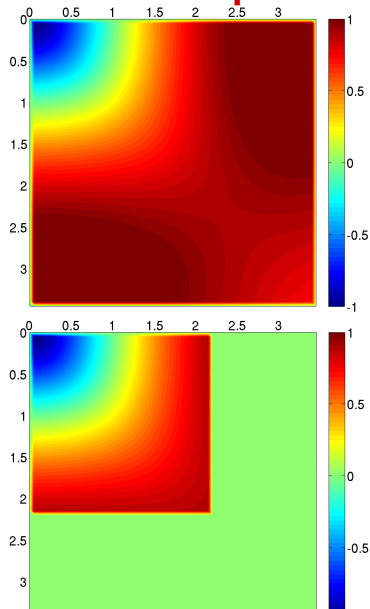


\implies Set to zero high momentum ($k \geq 2 \text{ fm}^{-1}$) matrix elements and see the effect on low-energy observables

Effect of low-pass filter on observables



Effect of low-pass filter on observables



Why did our low-pass filter fail?

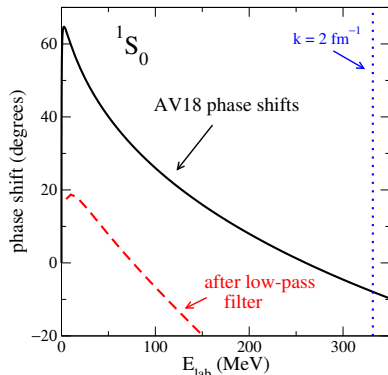
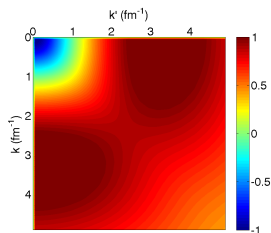
- Basic problem: low k and high k are **coupled** (mismatched dof's!)
- E.g., perturbation theory for (tangent of) phase shift:

$$\langle k|V|k\rangle + \sum_{k'} \frac{\langle k|V|k'\rangle\langle k'|V|k\rangle}{(k^2 - k'^2)/m} + \dots$$

- Solution: Unitary transformation of the H matrix \implies **decouple!**

$$\begin{aligned} E_n &= \langle \Psi_n | H | \Psi_n \rangle & U^\dagger U &= 1 \\ &= \langle \langle \Psi_n | U^\dagger \rangle U H U^\dagger (U | \Psi_n \rangle \rangle \\ &= \langle \tilde{\Psi}_n | \tilde{H} | \tilde{\Psi}_n \rangle \end{aligned}$$

- Here: Decouple using RG



S. Weinberg on the Renormalization Group

- From “Why the Renormalization Group is a good thing”
“The method in its most general form can I think be understood as a way to arrange in various theories that the degrees of freedom that you’re talking about are the relevant degrees of freedom for the problem at hand.”

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 - Mismatch of energy scales can generate large logarithms
 - Shift between couplings and loop integrals to reduce logs
- Universality in critical phenomena
 - Filter out short-distance degrees of freedom

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 - Mismatch of energy scales can generate large logarithms
 - Shift between couplings and loop integrals to reduce logs
- Universality in critical phenomena
 - Filter out short-distance degrees of freedom
- Simplifying calculations of nuclear structure/reactions
 - **Make nuclear physics look more like quantum chemistry!**
 - Like other RG applications, gains can seem like magic
- RG violates the First Law of Progress in Theoretical Physics
Conservation of Information: “You will get nowhere by churning equations” \implies but with RG you do!

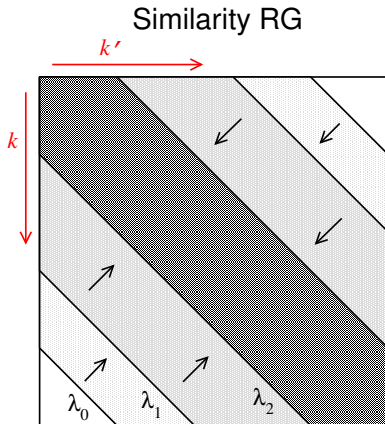
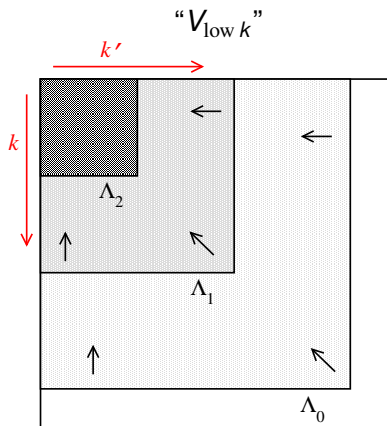
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Two ways to decouple with RG equations



- Lower a cutoff Λ_i in k, k' , e.g., demand $dT(k, k'; k^2)/d\Lambda = 0$

- Drive the Hamiltonian toward diagonal with “flow equation” [Wegner; Glazek/Wilson (1990’s)]

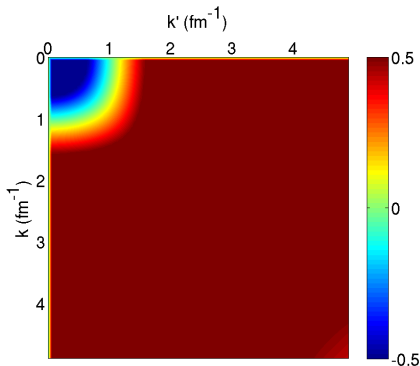
⇒ Both tend toward universal low-momentum interactions!

Flow equations in action: NN only

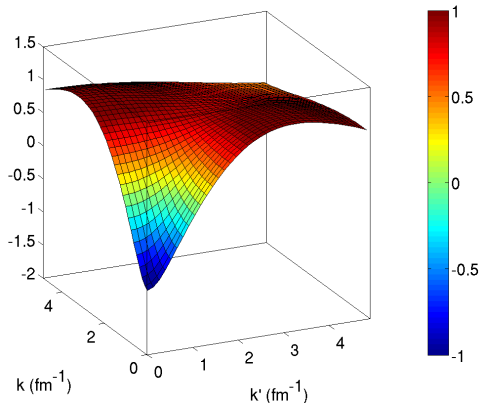
- In each partial wave with $\epsilon_k = \hbar^2 k^2 / M$ and $\lambda^2 = 1 / \sqrt{s}$

$$\frac{dV_\lambda}{d\lambda}(k, k') \propto -(\epsilon_k - \epsilon_{k'})^2 V_\lambda(k, k') + \sum_q (\epsilon_k + \epsilon_{k'} - 2\epsilon_q) V_\lambda(k, q) V_\lambda(q, k')$$

$^1S_0 \quad \lambda = 20.0 \text{ fm}^{-1}$



$^1S_0 \quad \lambda = 20.0 \text{ fm}^{-1}$

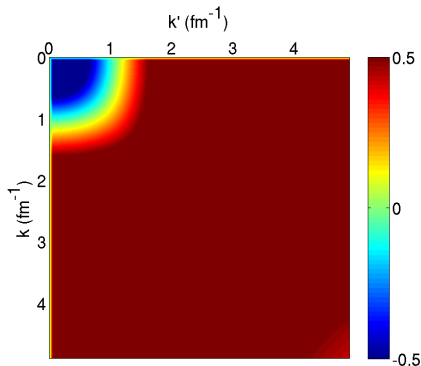


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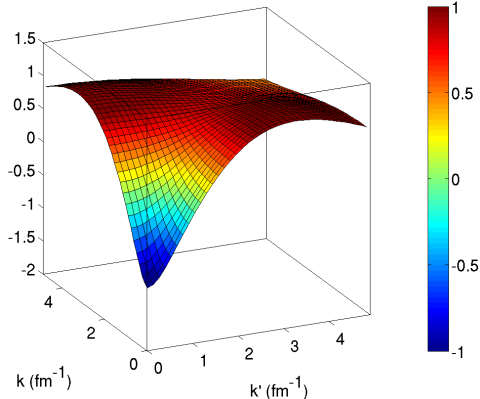
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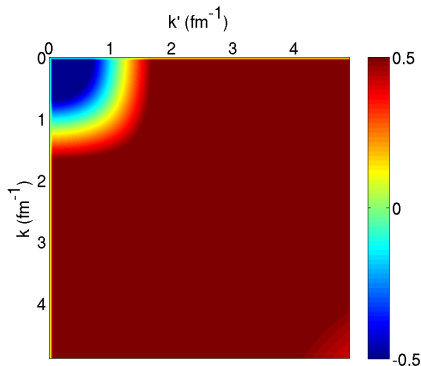


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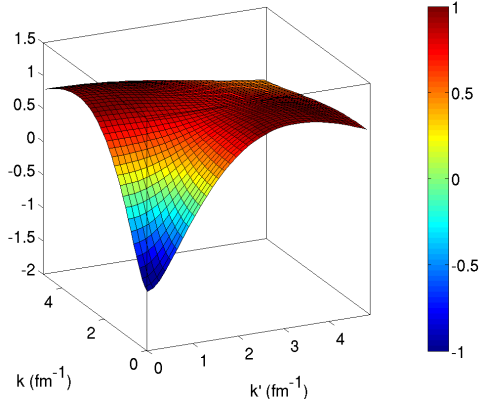
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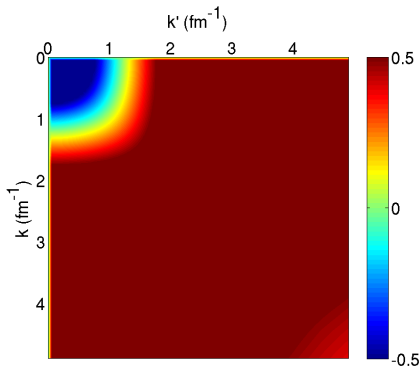


Flow equations in action: NN only

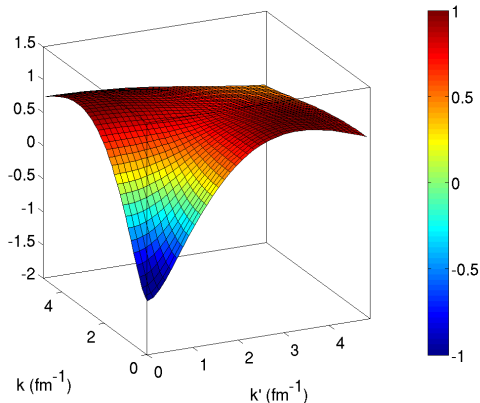
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$^1S_0 \quad \lambda = 10.0 \text{ fm}^{-1}$



$^1S_0 \quad \lambda = 10.0 \text{ fm}^{-1}$

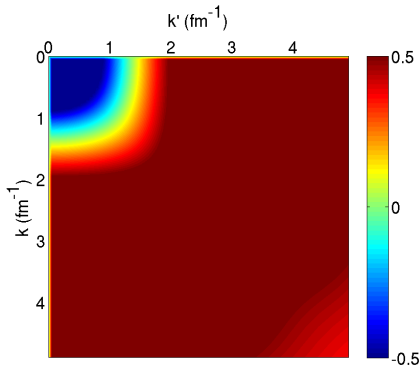


Flow equations in action: NN only

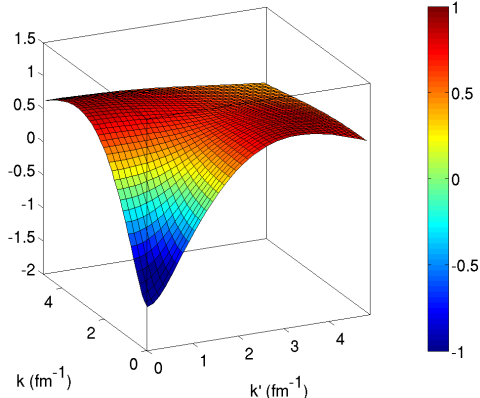
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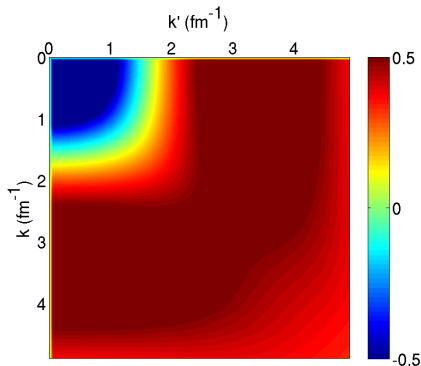


Flow equations in action: NN only

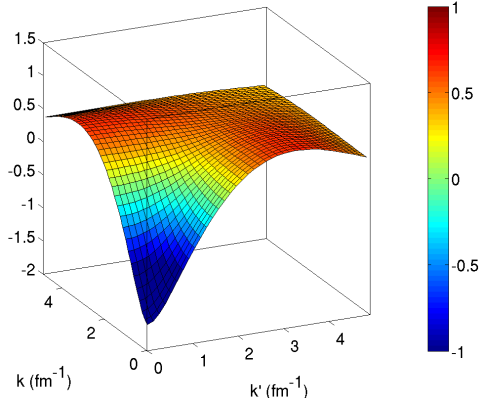
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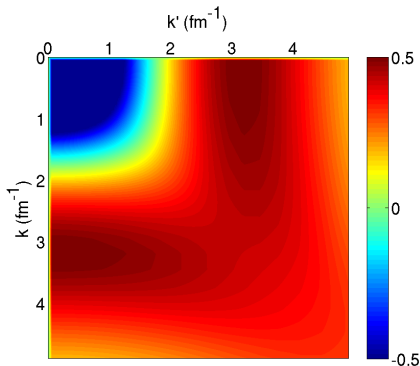


Flow equations in action: NN only

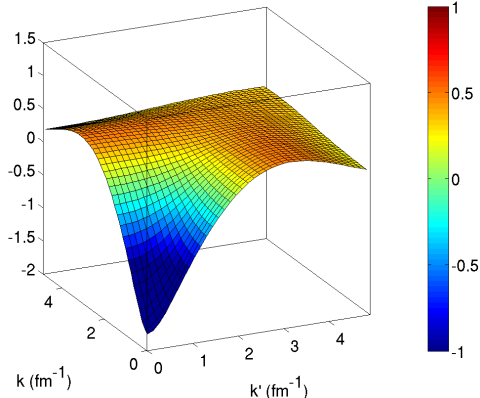
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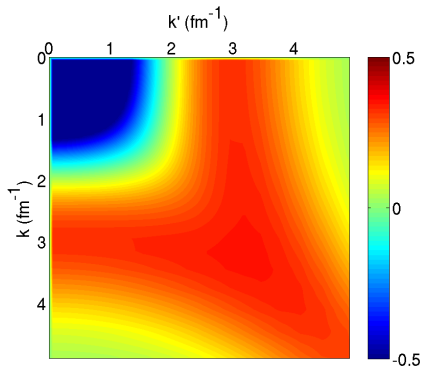


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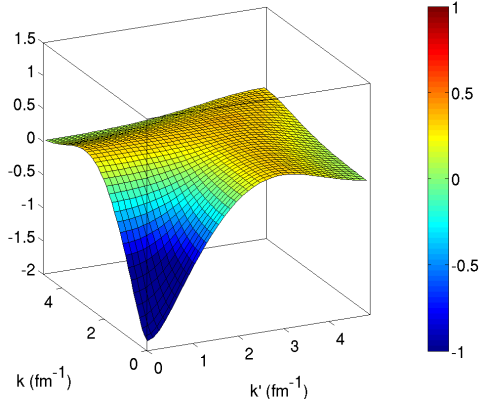
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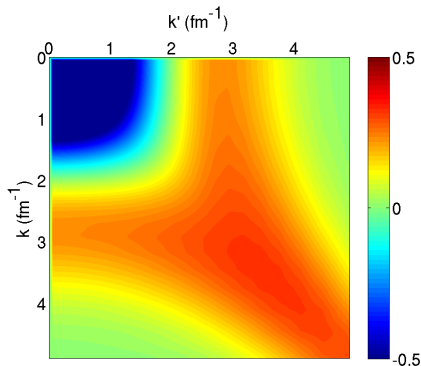


Flow equations in action: NN only

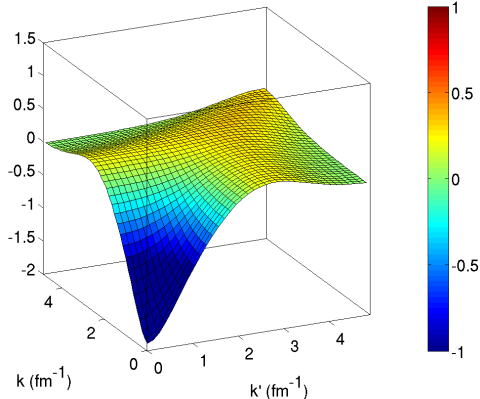
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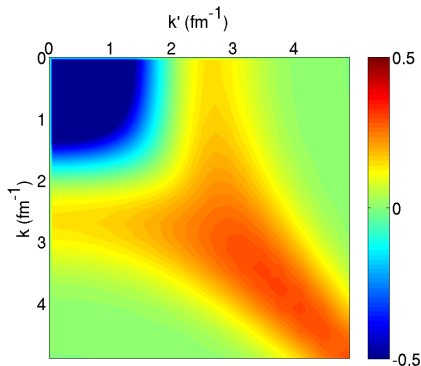


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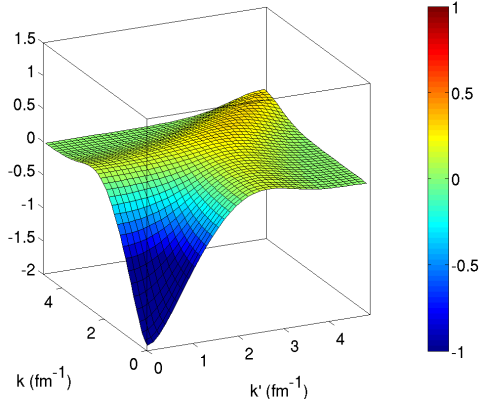
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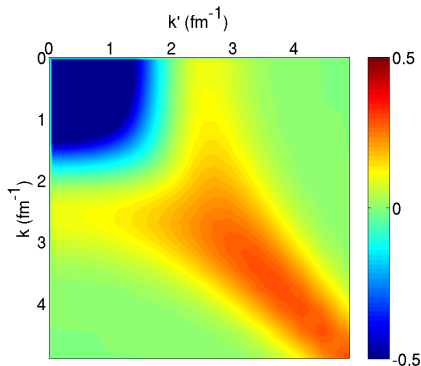


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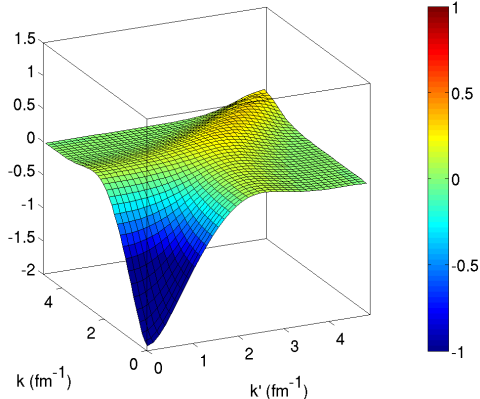
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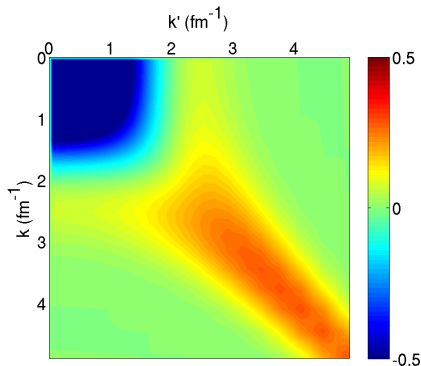


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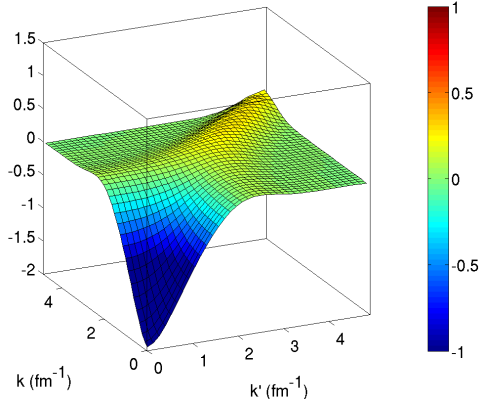
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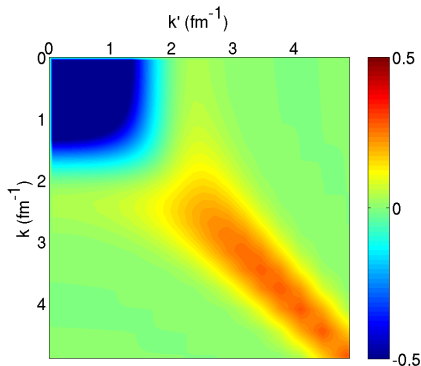


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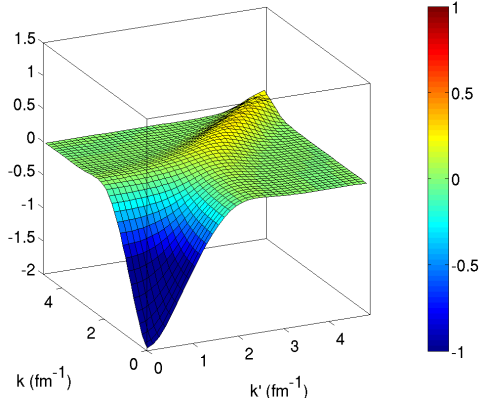
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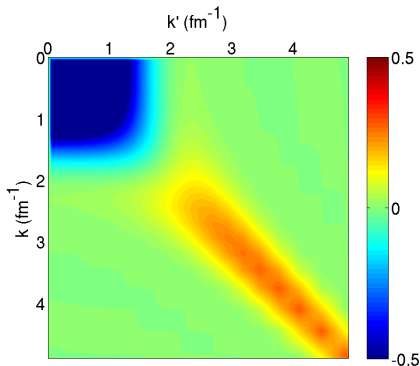


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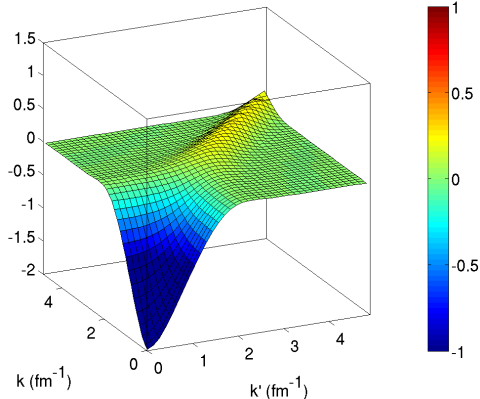
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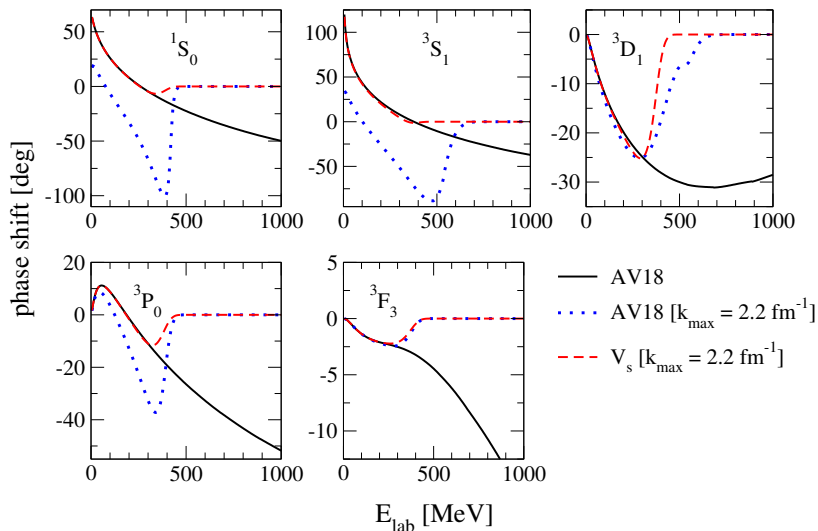


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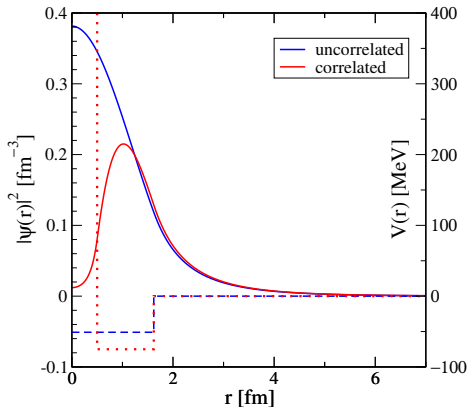
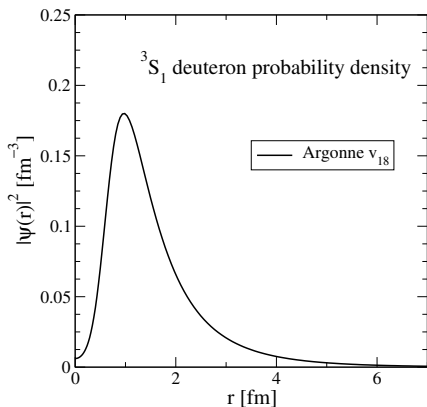


Low-pass filters work! [Jurgenson et al. (2008)]

- Phase shifts with $V_s(k, k') = 0$ for $k, k' > k_{\max}$

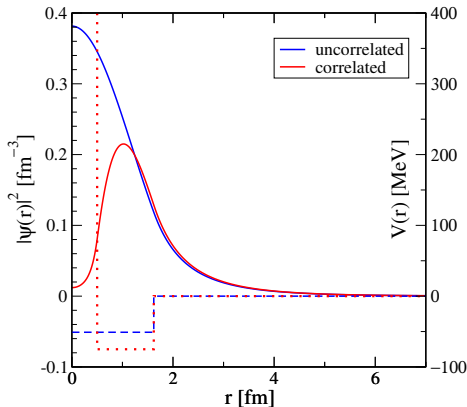
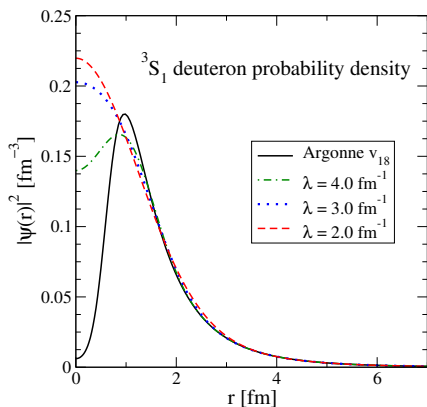


Consequences of a repulsive core revisited



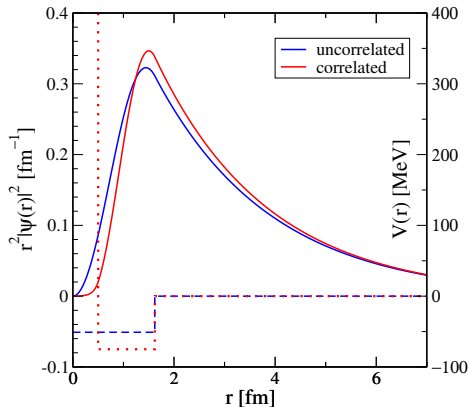
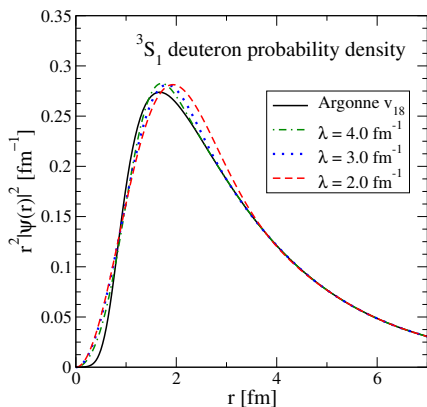
- Probability at short separations suppressed \implies “correlations”
- Short-distance structure \Leftrightarrow high-momentum components
- Greatly complicates expansion of many-body wave functions

Consequences of a repulsive core revisited



- Transformed potential \implies no short-range correlations in wf!
- Potential is now **non-local**: $V(\mathbf{r})\psi(\mathbf{r}) \longrightarrow \int d^3\mathbf{r}' V(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')\psi(\mathbf{r}')$
 - A problem for Green's Function Monte Carlo approach
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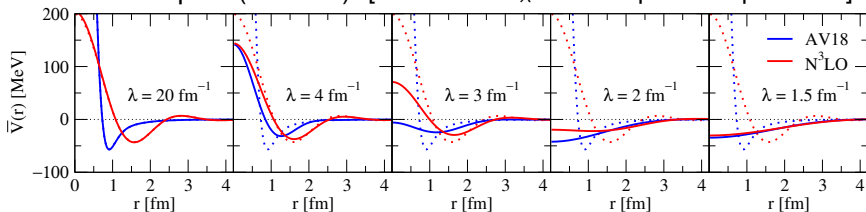
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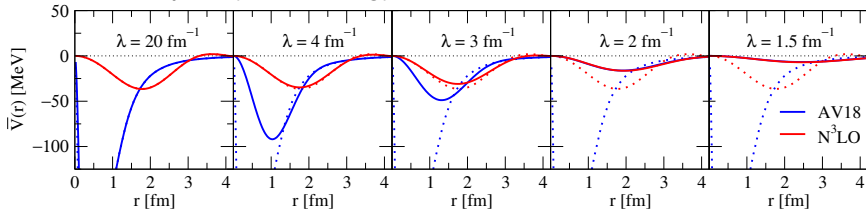
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Visualizing the softening of NN interactions

- Project non-local NN potential: $\bar{V}_\lambda(r) = \int d^3r' V_\lambda(r, r')$
 - Roughly gives action of potential on long-wavelength nucleons
- Central part (S-wave) [Note: The V_λ 's are all phase equivalent!]

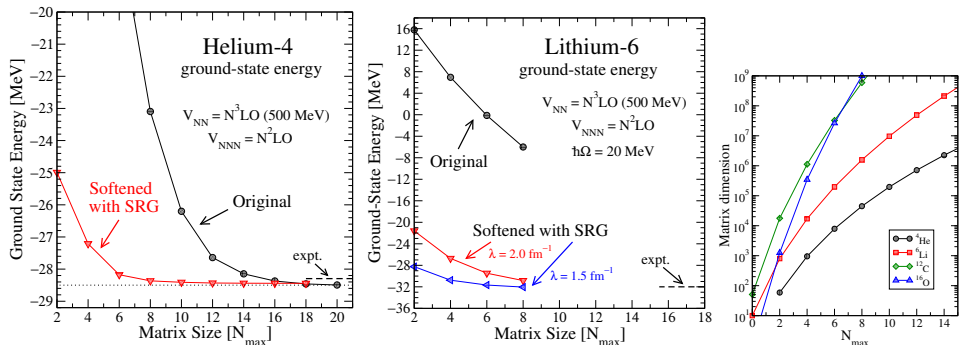


- Tensor part (S-D mixing) [graphs from K. Wendt]



Many short wavelengths \implies Large matrices

- Harmonic oscillator basis with N_{\max} shells for excitations
- Graphs show convergence for *soft* chiral EFT potential and evolved SRG potentials (including NNN)



- Better convergence, but rapid growth of basis still a problem (solution: importance sampling of matrix elements [R. Roth])

Outline

Overview

Lowering the resolution: Similarity RG in practice

SRG Basics

Basics: SRG flow equations [arXiv:0912.3688]

- Transform an initial hamiltonian, $H = T + V$:

$$H_s = U_s H U_s^\dagger \equiv T + V_s ,$$

where s is the *flow parameter*. Differentiating wrt s :

$$\frac{dH_s}{ds} = [\eta_s, H_s] \quad \text{with} \quad \eta_s \equiv \frac{dU_s}{ds} U_s^\dagger = -\eta_s^\dagger .$$

- η_s is specified by the commutator with Hermitian G_s :

$$\eta_s = [G_s, H_s] ,$$

which yields the unitary flow equation (T held fixed),

$$\frac{dH_s}{ds} = \frac{dV_s}{ds} = [[G_s, H_s], H_s] .$$

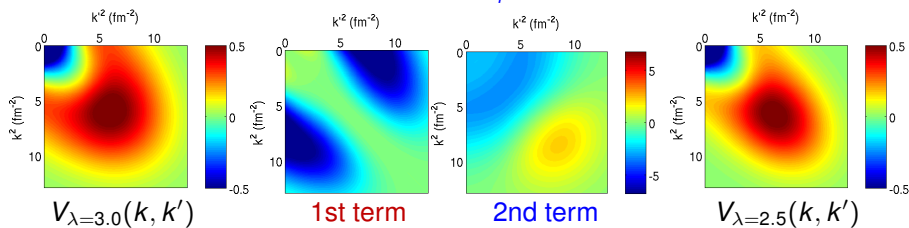
- G_s determines flow \implies many choices (T, H_D, H_{BD}, \dots)

Flow in momentum basis with $\eta(s) = [T, H_S]$

- For $A = 2$, project on rel. momentum states $|k\rangle$, but generic

$$\frac{dV_s}{ds} = [[T_{\text{rel}}, V_s], H_S] \quad \text{with} \quad T_{\text{rel}}|k\rangle = \epsilon_k|k\rangle \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda^2 = 1/\sqrt{s}$$

$$\frac{dV_\lambda}{d\lambda}(k, k') \propto -(\epsilon_k - \epsilon_{k'})^2 V_\lambda(k, k') + \sum_q (\epsilon_k + \epsilon_{k'} - 2\epsilon_q) V_\lambda(k, q) V_\lambda(q, k')$$



- First term drives 1S_0 V_λ toward diagonal:

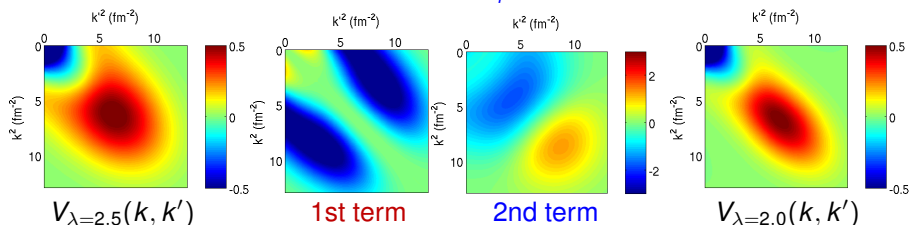
$$V_\lambda(k, k') = V_{\lambda=\infty}(k, k') e^{-[(\epsilon_k - \epsilon_{k'})/\lambda^2]^2} + \dots$$

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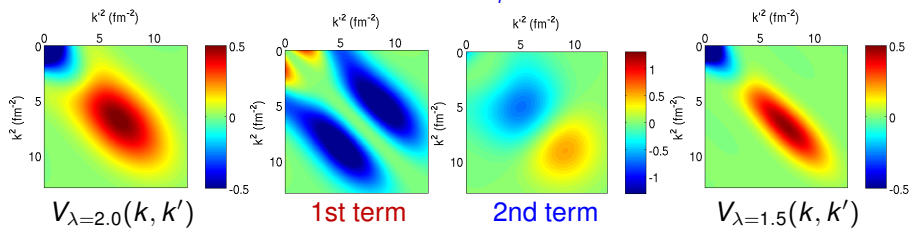
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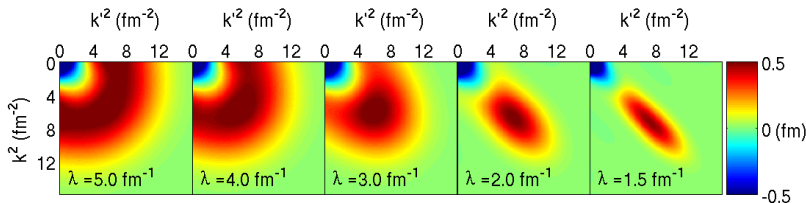


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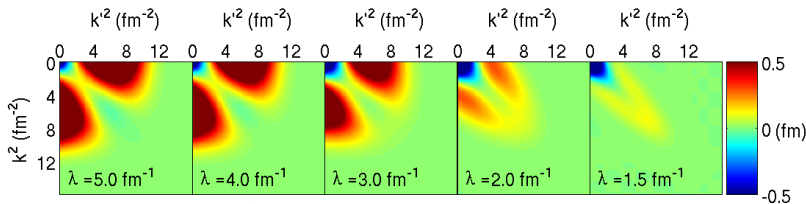
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Flow of different N³LO chiral EFT potentials

- 1S_0 from N³LO (500 MeV) of Entem/Machleidt



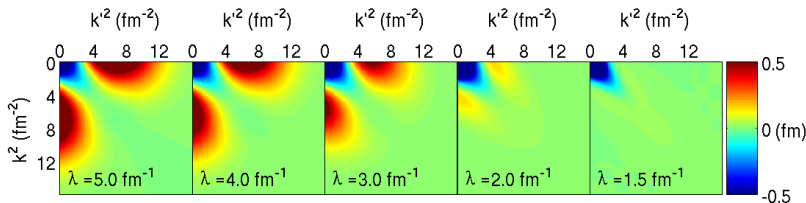
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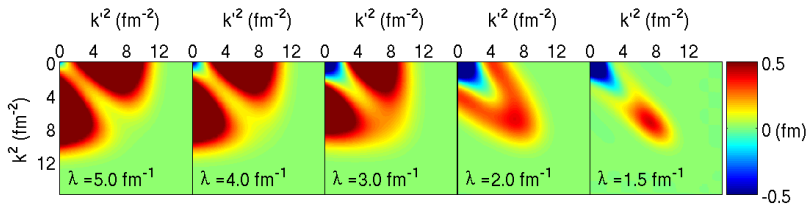
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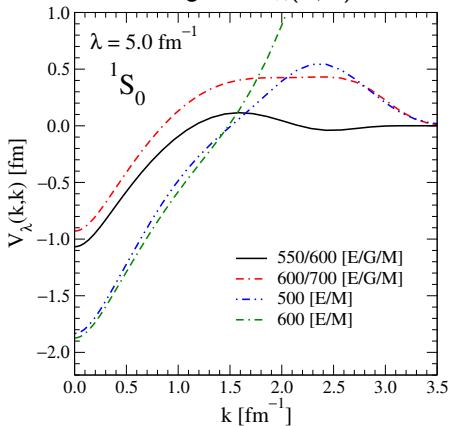
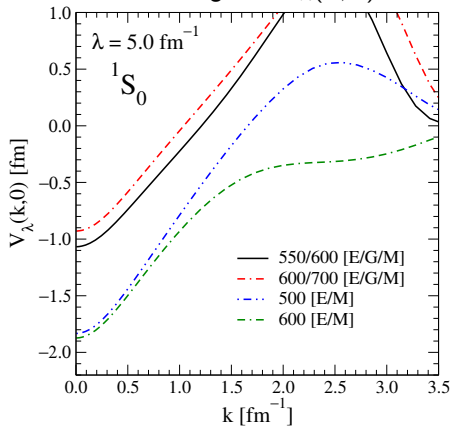


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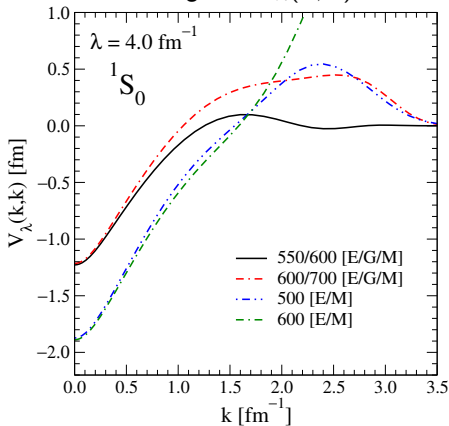
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Diagonal $V_\lambda(k, k)$ Off-Diagonal $V_\lambda(k, 0)$ 

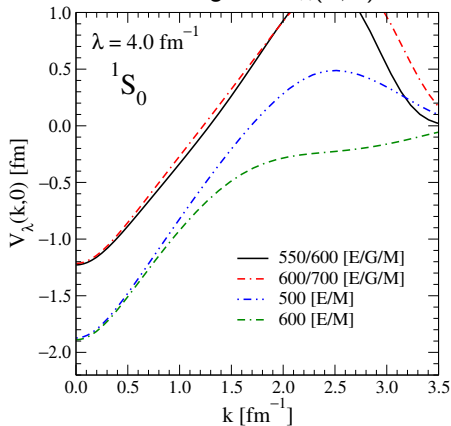
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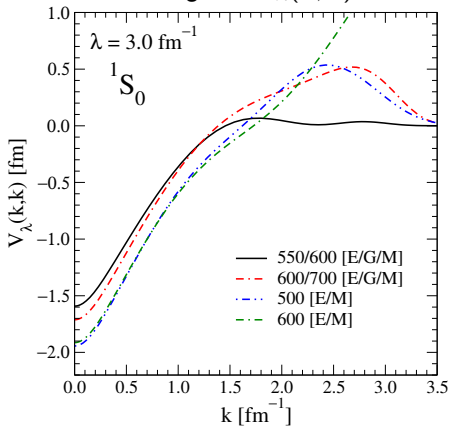
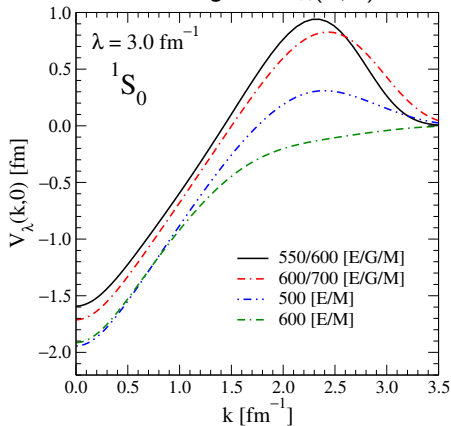


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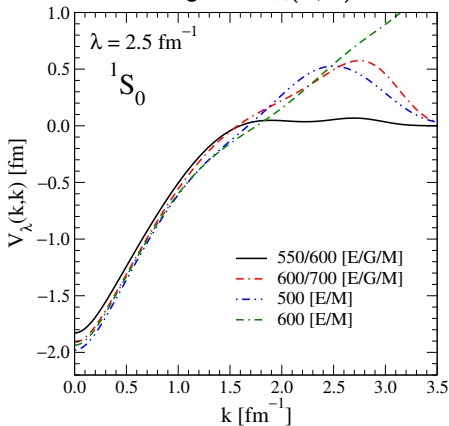
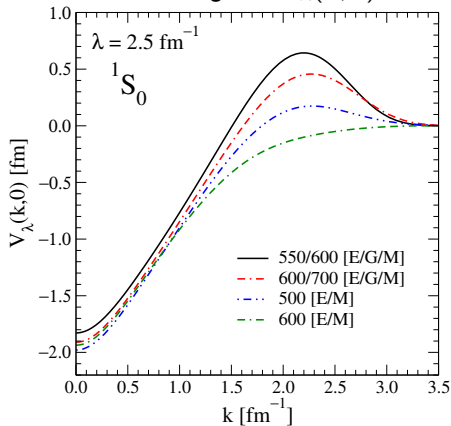
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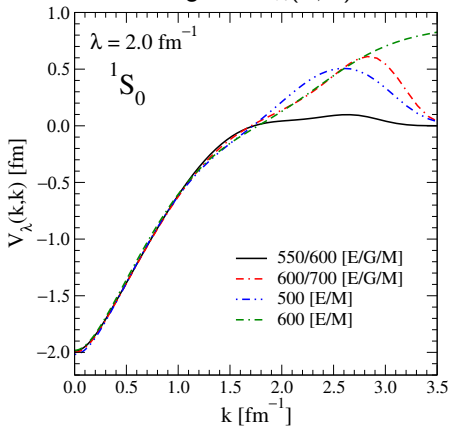
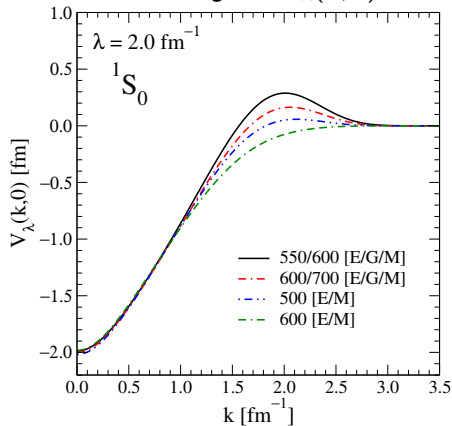
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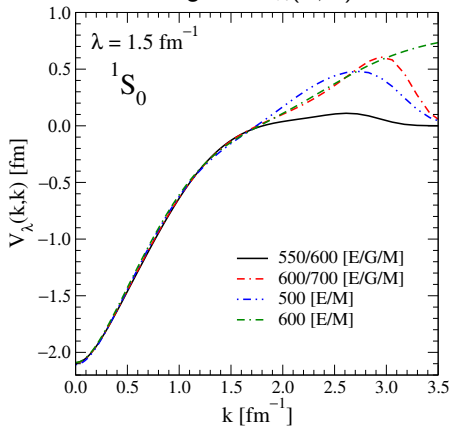
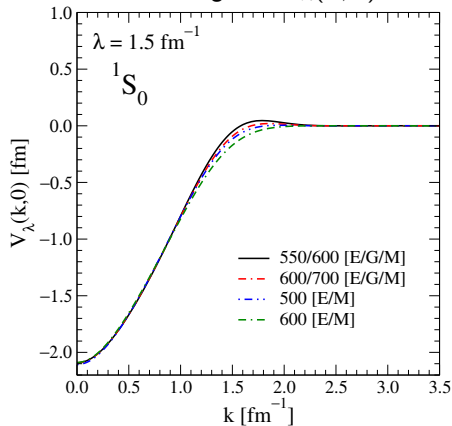
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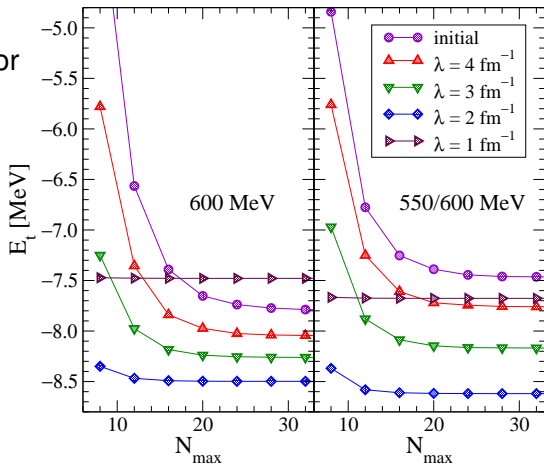
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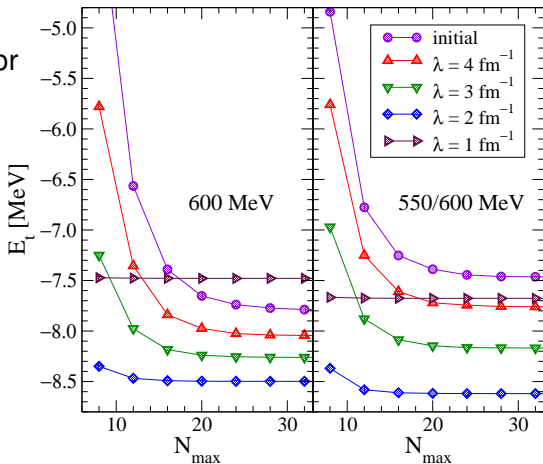
Variational calculations in three-nucleon systems

- Triton ground-state energy vs. size of harmonic oscillator basis ($N_{\max} \hbar\omega$ excitations)
- Rapid convergence as λ decreases
- Note softening already at $\lambda = 3 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ with $N^3\text{LO EFT}$
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- Different binding energies!



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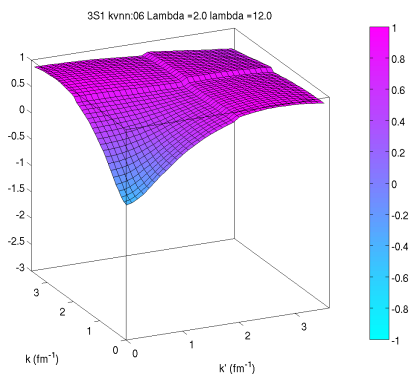
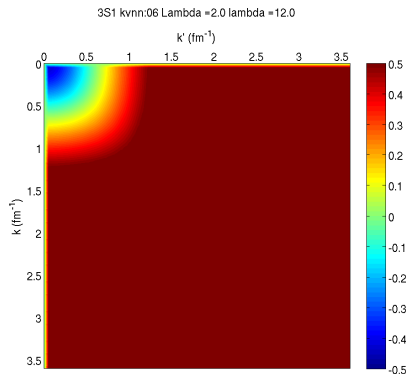
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- **Different binding energies!**
- Nuclear matter doesn't saturate at low λ



Block diagonalization via SRG [$G_s = H_{BD}$]

• Can we get a $\Lambda = 2 \text{ fm}^{-1}$ $V_{\text{low } k}$ -like potential with SRG?

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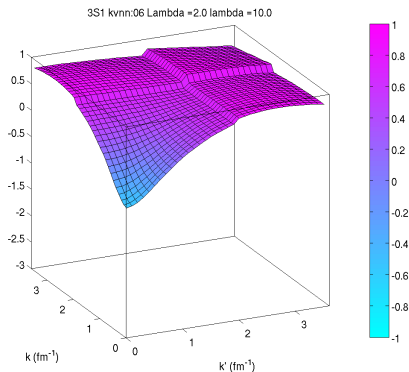
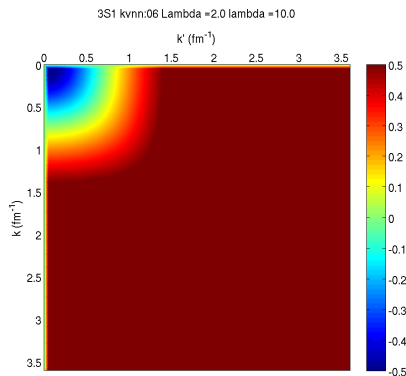


• What are the best generators for nuclear applications?

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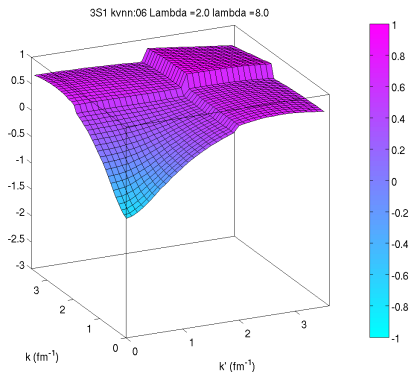
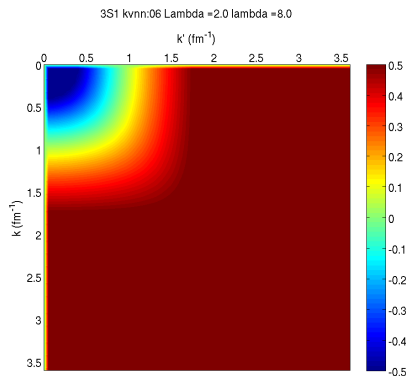


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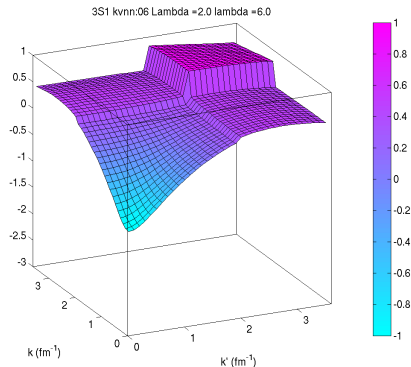
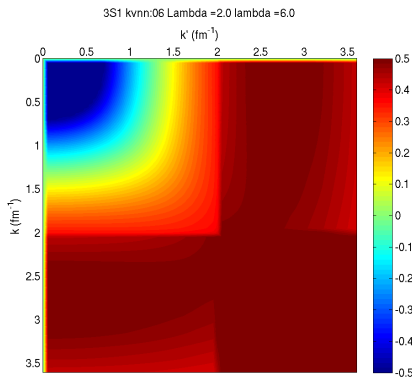


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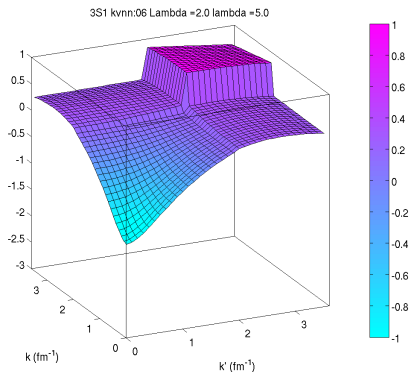
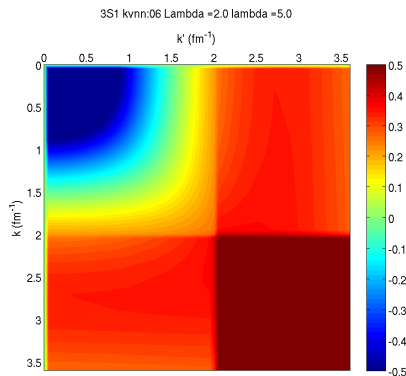


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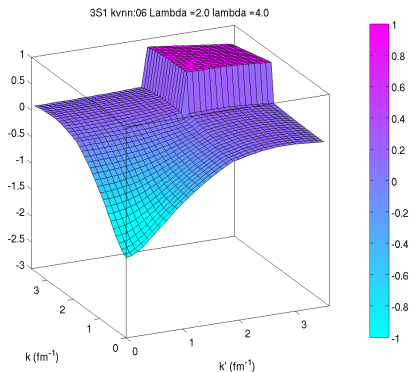
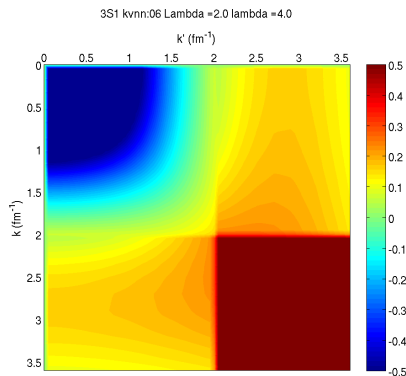


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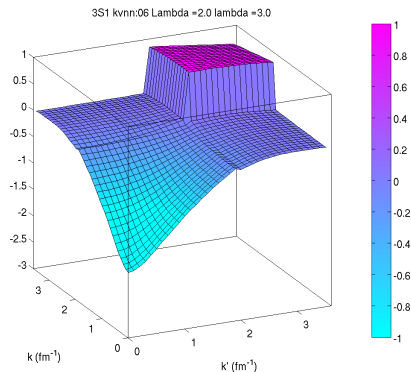
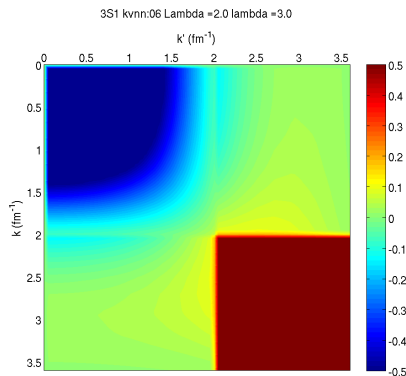


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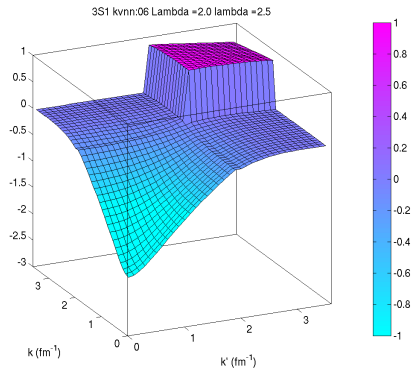
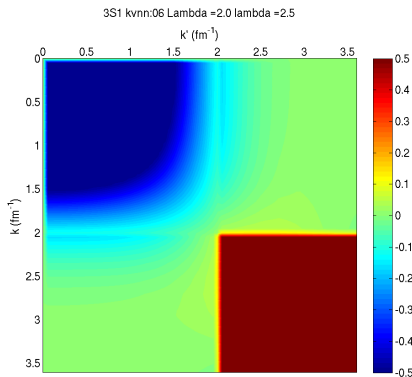


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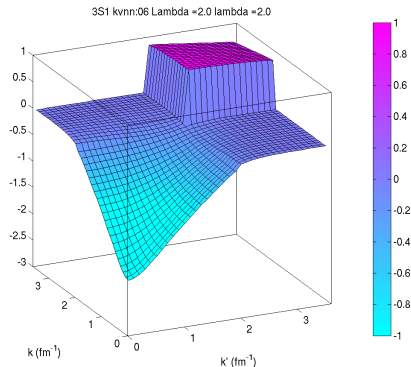
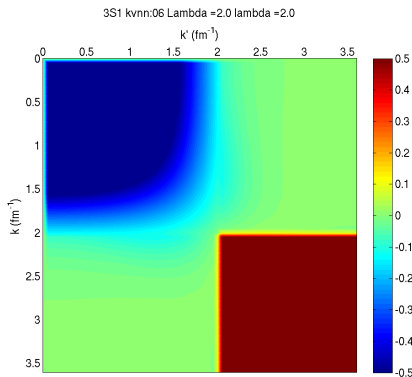


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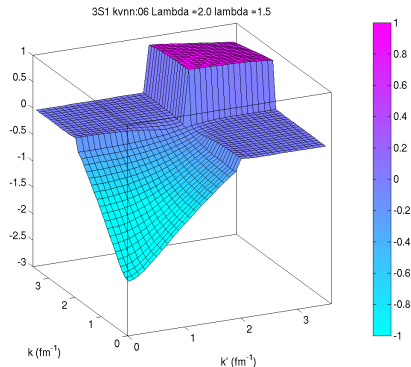
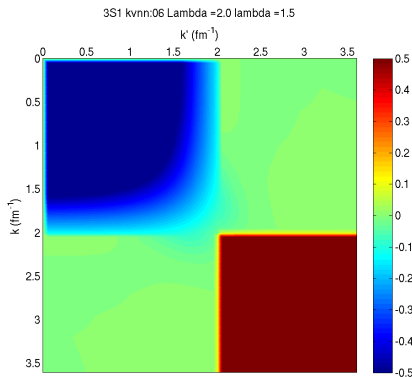


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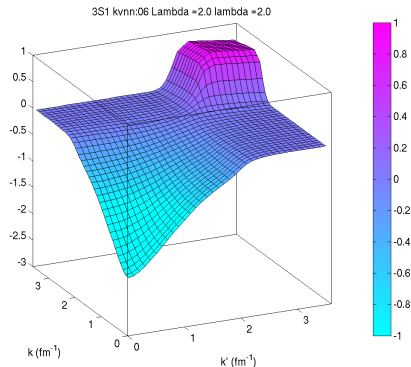
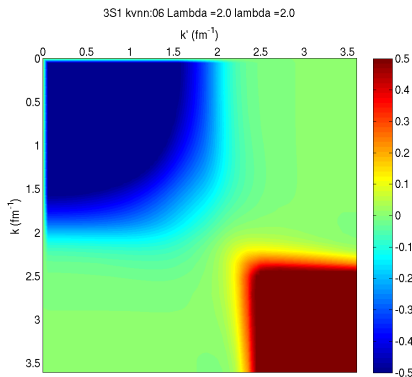


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